

## Nerve Agent Live Read scripts

### Long Version

Please pay close attention; this is important safety information about the recent event involving a nerve agent. The following information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will help protect you and your loved ones.

Nerve agents are chemicals that poison the nervous system of those who are exposed, affecting their movement and breathing. Exposure to nerve agents can seriously harm or kill you but, with immediate medical attention, recovery is possible.

Nerve agents are typically in liquid form, but can become vapor if heated. These chemicals are usually colorless and odorless; however, some may have a faint fruity odor.

#### **For anyone in the area of contamination:**

If **you think you have** swallowed contaminated food or liquids, **do not induce vomiting!**  
**Seek medical attention immediately.**

Symptoms may take up to 18 hours to appear and include a twitch or tic at the area of exposed skin, blurred vision, confusion and weakness, paralysis, and difficulty breathing. Poisoning by nerve agents is not contagious or spread from person to person like some infectious diseases.

People who think they have been exposed to a nerve agent, or are experiencing symptoms and are in an area of the release of a nerve agent, **need to take action immediately**. Remove your clothing **without** pulling any item over your head. Cut through the clothes to remove them if necessary and seal them in a plastic bag. Put the bag where others will not touch it and keep it until authorities tell you what to do with it. Wash exposed skin thoroughly with cold water and soap. Call for an ambulance immediately after following the decontamination instructions, or have someone call for you while you are decontaminating.

If you are outside and near the area of the release find a nearby building and go inside. Close doors and windows. Turn off air conditioners and heaters and close vents. Stay inside and listen for instructions from local authorities.

If you have children or loved ones who are not with you your first instinct may be to find them. However, leaving people sheltered where they are following a nerve agent release is usually the best way to protect them. Schools have emergency plans and shelters so if your children are at school, it is usually best for them to stay there until it is safe to travel.

If you are in a car and near the area of the release pull over, if possible, to a shady area. Close doors and windows; turn off air conditioners and vents. Listen to the radio for instructions from local authorities.

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms described **seek medical attention immediately even if you're not sure that you've been exposed**.

During this emergency, remain calm and follow instructions provided by your public health officials.

**For everyone in the listening area:**

Feeling upset and concerned is understandable given the circumstances. Law enforcement and public health officials are working together to contain the contamination and to determine the source of the attack. You can participate in keeping your family and community safe by following important instructions given to you by public health and law enforcement authorities. Please continue to listen to radio and television stations for updates.

For more detailed information on nerve agents go to the CDC website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDCINFO.

**Short Version**

Please pay close attention; this is important safety information about the recent event involving a nerve agent. The following information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will help protect you and your loved ones.

Nerve agents are chemicals that poison the nervous system of those who are exposed, affecting their movement and breathing. Exposure to nerve agents can seriously harm or kill you but with immediate medical attention recovery is possible.

Nerve agents can be released as an odorless and tasteless mist or liquid or vapor. You can become sick if it comes in contact with your skin or eyes, if you breathe it, or if you eat contaminated food or water.

**For anyone in the area of the release:**

If you have swallowed contaminated food or liquids, **do not induce vomiting! Seek medical attention immediately.**

Symptoms may take up to 18 hours to appear and include a twitch or tic at the area of exposed skin, blurred vision, confusion and weakness, paralysis, and difficulty breathing. Poisoning by nerve agents is not contagious or spread from person to person like some infectious diseases.

If you are outside and near the area of the release find a nearby building and go inside. Close doors and windows; turn off air conditioners, ventilators. Stay inside and listen for instructions from local authorities.

If you are in a car and near the area of the release pull over to a shady spot. Close doors and windows; turn off air conditioners and vents. Listen to the radio for instructions from local authorities.

If you have been exposed to a nerve agent by breathing it or contact with the skin remove your clothing **without** pulling any item over your head. Cut through the clothes to remove them if necessary and seal them in a plastic bag. Wash exposed skin thoroughly with cold water and soap. Call for an ambulance after following the decontamination instructions.

**For everyone in the listening area:**

Feeling upset and concerned is understandable given the circumstances. Law enforcement and public health officials are working together to contain the contamination and to determine the source of the attack. You can participate in keeping your family and community safe by following important instructions given to you by public health and law enforcement authorities. Please continue to listen to radio and television stations for updates.

For more detailed information on nerve agents go to the CDC website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDCINFO.